

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean A. Foley, 4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div.)

## Sunset security

A paratrooper with HHC, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, pulls security during a stop at an Iraqi police station in Haswah, Iraq.

## Making a difference

**CA team leader sacrifices to serve again**

By Spc. L.B. Edgar,  
7th MPAD

CAMP RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - You're closing on your first home, you're expecting your first-born child and you're about to deploy to Iraq for your first deployment. Not to mention, you're no longer in the military. You work in marketing for a Fortune-500 company.

This is precisely the situation Capt. Chris Boyer, team leader, Civil Affairs Team A, from CA Team C, 489th CA Battalion, faced one morning when he opened his mailbox to find the correspondence any veteran on inactive ready reserve status dreads most: a go-to-war-or-go-to-jail letter.

This might be too much for a typical person, but Boyer, who is a native of Warren, Mich., is not your typical Soldier.

He truly is a team player, said Lt. Col. James W. Phillips, squadron commander, 361st Cavalry Squadron, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

"He's a critical part of the team," Phillips said of his CA team leader. "Because he is so entrenched in the community, he is able to create more effects than just his one lane - that's part of being on a team."

Now going on nine months deployed, Boyer understands the challenge coalition forces face, Phillips said.

According to Phillips, Boyer possesses a "clear, concise understanding" of the problem: the Iraqi people's inability to solve their issues.

"The problem isn't they don't have water. They don't have essential services. They don't have a government," Phillips said. "That is not the problem. The problem is they don't know how to fix them."

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## Paratroopers team up with Iraqi Army in Operation Arctic Sunrise

By Sgt. Marcus Butler  
4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq - Before the sun rose over the walls here, paratroopers from the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) were putting on their tactical gear and making final checks before starting their foot patrol.

Simultaneously, other elements from

the squadron already outside of the FOB were moving into place and getting ready to execute the biggest mission for the 1-40th Cav since being deployed to Iraq.

Marching right through the front gates of the FOB and around barriers at checkpoints scattered throughout the town, these paratroopers moved onto the streets and into the fields of Iraq to get into position and wait for the mission's execution time.

Once the time arrived, Operation

Arctic Sunrise was a go.

Operation Arctic Sunrise was a squadron-sized mission consisting of two weeks of preparations that focused on helping Iraqis secure their neighborhoods by gaining intelligence and disrupting anti-coalition activities south of Baghdad. Slated to last between five to six days, Operation Arctic Sunrise was a combined

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# Teaching, not giving, key to CA success

## Difference

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Phillips said the answer is to show Iraqi leaders how to address issues in their communities and take on the problems themselves.

"Now we're trying to get them to help themselves,"

Phillips explained. "Instead of Capt. Boyer going out there and fixing their problem, he is coaching them through how to fix (it). So they will have muscle memory and know how to fix their problems."

Boyer works with the local councils (nahias) to build rapport. Out on patrol, he strikes

up conversations with the Iraqi people, even if it is just small talk.

He works with the populace, Boyer said, "All the way up to, 'Can you show me exactly where your issues are?' 'Show me what's going on.' That's how you build their trust and confidence and from there (we) try to alleviate the problems through U.S. money or the ultimate goal, Iraq's (money).

"CA is kind of a misnomer. CA is all about being a human being - understanding the populace, understanding the people and understanding your customer, which is ultimately marketing and sales," said Boyer. "When you talk to these people, they all want a better future for their children. Nobody wants a worse future for their children. That's something you have a real tie to them."

Just like many Iraqis, Boyer, too, would like a better future for his 2-month-old son,

he said.

"I was home when he was born. I think I spent ten days with him," Boyer said of his first-born child. "I got to see him there for ten days and enjoy him. Then I get to come back and miss the first six months of the kid's life. I miss the not being on a schedule and the not sleeping through the night."

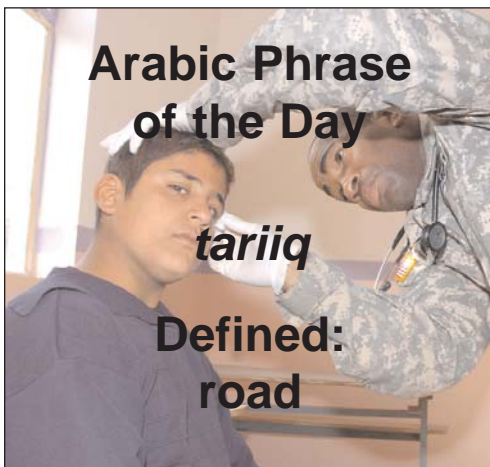
Though being deployed has not always been easy, Boyer said he maintains a positive outlook on the experience.

"I'm not going to say it was a seamless transition. A lot of things could have gone better. I was one day from closing on my first house and my wife just had our first kid. I thought I was done with the Army, but I don't regret it at all," Boyer said. "That's what I want to look back on, see that you made a difference and your time over here just wasn't spent for no reason away from your family."



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

**Capt. Chris Boyer, team leader, Civil Affairs Team A, from CA Team C, 489th CA Battalion, visits with local Iraqi children in Wahida, Iraq, Dec. 5.**



**Arabic Phrase  
of the Day**

**tariiq**

**Defined:  
road**

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today**

**High: 65  
Low: 35**



**Tomorrow**

**High: 65  
Low: 33**



**Thursday**

**High: 65  
Low: 37**

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# Firefighters show support to fellow heroes

By Staff Sgt. Mary Rose  
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - There are many organizations that support the troops in various ways by sending care packages, letters and prayers. After a couple of suggestions from a chaplain, and the work of a firefighter captain, the New Jersey firefighters came up with "T-shirts for Troops," a program to show their appreciation for the Soldiers serving in combat zones.

The 1st Cavalry Division's chaplain section here received 500 T-shirts with the 1st Cavalry Division and the N.J. Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association logos branded on them.

"The very seed that grew into the effort we call 'T-shirts for Troops' was actually planted at Fort Hood, (Texas), by (1st Cav's) own Chaplain Steve Walsh," said Kevin Moore, Captain Engine 13, of New Jersey's North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue.

"I told him if he (Moore) could combine the firefighter's insignia and the 1st Cav's logo on a T-shirt the Soldiers would 'Go crazy' for them," Walsh said. "The rea-

son I believe this, is that Americans relate the two as being the embodiment of our country's greatest values."

With the idea of T-shirts, Moore went back to New Jersey and with the help of Capt. Jim Stelman, Squad 10, and Peggy Dreker of the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue, began the effort to send shirts from the fire department to Soldiers in Iraq.

"When we first began, I had an idea we would be able to get shirts to maybe 300 troops serving in Iraq," Moore said. "I sorely underestimated the support the members of the fire service were willing to give to this effort."

Moore was able to send more than 1,000 shirts to the 519th MP Battalion from Ft. Polk, La., in Baghdad, 500 to the 10th Mountain Division and 500 to 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers.

"I think that 'T-shirts for Troops' is a worthwhile idea because the present generation of youth speaks to one another in symbolisms and slogans found on T-shirts," Walsh said. "Long after cookies and candy are gone, Soldiers will proudly wear Kevin's well-designed shirt at the mall, gym and elsewhere as a memory of



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Rose, 7th MPAD)

**Sgt. 1st Class Mark Morrissey (left), provost marshal office operations noncommissioned officer, and Maj. Robert Wichman, chaplain, both with 1st Cav. Div., hold up a T-shirt donated by New Jersey firefighters.**

one of the most important experiences in their life - here in Iraq."

In the future, Moore hopes to expand this effort to include members of N.Y. Fire Department and the Philadelphia Fire Department.

## Snipers, mortars and IEDs can't stop 1-40th Cav from completing mission

### Sunrise

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effort involving more than 10 moving pieces.

"During this operation, the

squadron conducted over 15 patrols with our Iraqi Army brothers. The cooperation between the United States forces and the Iraqi forces, without a doubt led to a major-



(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler, 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

**Sgt. Aubrey Jollotta moves toward an opening in some reeds to look for possible snipers after his patrol took small arms fire during movement to an observation point near a small town south of Baghdad.**

ity of the mission's productivity," said Capt. Derrick Goodwin, assistant operations officer for 1-40th Cav.

Also, coalition forces distributed over 50 humanitarian aid packages containing food, water and medicine to the local civilians, he said.

The overall mission for the 1-40th Cav. while deployed in this area is to provide a secure environment for the Iraqi people in south Baghdad.

"Operation Arctic Sunrise helped to accomplish the mission by removing a sizable cache of improvised explosive device making material, detaining 11 individuals believed to be involved in insurgent activities and improved the living conditions for the Iraqi people

in the area," said Goodwin.

Along with the humanitarian aid packages, troops escorted local national contractors throughout the town to repair damaged roads and installed a transformer to increase the towns energy output.

With days of indirect fire, improvised explosive devices as well as small arms fire from enemy snipers, the combine coalition forces pushed through the adversity and accomplished the mission.

"We believe that the mission was a success," said Goodwin. "There are less bad guys on the streets as well as less equipment to conduct anti-coalition activities, and most importantly, we brought every paratrooper home."

# 4-9 Cav MiTT learning, fighting as they teach

By Spc. Alexis Harrison  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - The Military Training Team (MiTT) of the "First Team's" 2nd Brigade Combat Team has been working a seemingly endless schedule to make sure parts of the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division are running the way they should be.

Not only is the team teaching the Iraqis, they're learning as they go.

Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's top noncommissioned officer, 1st Sergeant Joseph McFarlane, said though it's a relatively new team, they seem to do well.

Early into a patrol Dec. 7, the team went onto Haifa Street in city's center. The team hadn't

even dismounted for more than a few minutes before the action began.

The IA saw a vehicle that had been reported as suspicious. They stopped the car and found weapons being illegally transported by the occupants.

As the drama unfolded, the team observed how the IA was handling the situation. Before any kudos could be awarded, shots rang out, one narrowly missing the team's officer in charge, Maj. Chris Norrie.

"A sniper round hit a stone pillar about 20 feet behind me," Norrie said. "I was thinking ... we just got here!"

The team and their Iraqi counterparts completed the seizure of the weapons and the men. No one on the team acted too surprised about the sniper fire. McFarlane said they'd been shot at the last four times they'd been out on the streets.

McFarlane remarked about the tenacity of his team. He spoke highly of their abilities to stay focused and not let things

bother them.

"When we get back, the guys take off their gear and their boots and just decompress. You kinda have to, in order to keep it together. We see a lot more than most of the people in the brigade," he said.

The team wasn't exactly done for the day after they got back to home base. The troops needed to get chow and the vehicles needed maintenance. The team works on into the evening making sure everything is set to go for the next mission. It was only about 12 hours away.

He added that although the team has many tasks to accomplish as the MiTT, they still have normal company duties as well.

"We've had a sharp learning curve to battle, but it's been a constant effort from everyone on the team," McFarlane remarked about the challenge of juggling so many duties at once. "It's a marathon. We still have a lot to learn."



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Members of the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's Military Training Team (MiTT) provide security for their Iraqi counterparts during an operation in Baghdad.**

## Cav Troops reach out to children

Staff Sgt. Charles Wilkerson, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st 'Ironhorse' Brigade Combat Team, hands a soccer ball to a young Iraqi boy during a soccer ball distribution mission Dec. 8 at a soccer field in Tarmiyah, Iraq. The Soldiers handed out 15 soccer balls to the children to help improve the relations between the military and the local population in the city.



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)